

Commissioners Hear More Justice Center Concerns 5-4-94

by Tom Noffsinger

The new Justice Center was once again the topic of discussion for the Wasatch County Board of Commissioners as they met Monday morning. County resident Cindy Kennedy came before the commissioners to present some concerns she and others have regarding the jail. Leading the list were concerns about contract prisoners from the state being housed in the facility.

According to Sheriff Mike Spanos, the county will have the option of contracting with the state to fill any empty beds in the facility and charge the state per inmate. Currently charges are \$35 per day, per prisoner. Ms. Kennedy said the contract prisoners make the numbers look better for funding the jail, but are likely to add new crime elements from visitors, bring hardened criminals to Heber and give the state more control over the jail.

Spanos told Ms. Kennedy that no decision has been made to use contract prisoners, but if they are allowed the department will have control over who is accepted at the facility. Both the sheriff and the

commissioners said they do not have any plans to bring in such inmates and noted that the final decision would still be over a year away.

"I don't know that we are going to take contract prisoners... the jail was not built with that in mind," said Commission Chairman T. LaRen Provost. He added that the jail is being built to handle the county's growth through the year 2010.

Ms. Kennedy was also informed that the fee for contract prisoners would go toward the daily running of the jail and not to the construction costs. The sheriff emphasized he would be happy not to have such inmates, but added that economic realities may lead the commission to consider such alternatives. Ms. Kennedy asked the commissioners to look at the issue seriously before making a decision.

Another of Ms. Kennedy's concerns is the possibility of the jail bids coming in over budget. She said she would rather see a smaller facility than lose some of the security features because of budget constraints. Commissioner Besendorfer said the bids will be

rejected if they are over the budgeted amount.

In other matters, the board approved the amended minutes of the April 25 meeting and approved several business licenses.

Salt Lake Attorney John McCoy requested a partial tax abatement for his client who owns lots in Brighton Estates. The lots are slated for the May Tax Sale and have accrued 13 years of back taxes. Each property has an outstanding balance of just over \$1,400. McCoy said his client was concerned the valuation of the property is incorrect.

Commissioner Pete Coleman informed McCoy that the owner should have appealed to the Board of Equalization if he questioned the valuations; no appeals had been made. Provost added there is not much the commission can do if no appeal was made.

Public Works Director Kent Berg presented a Loss Prevention Team ordinance for consideration by the county attorney and commission. The group also decided to meet following the commission meeting to begin reviewing job applications

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grass and washing cars. Last week, it snowed again and had to get out the winter jackets, boots and gloves. What is the problem? You would think that in a nation where we put men, women and animals into space virtually every week, we could at least get a grip on the weather.

You know, this sort of thing never happens on the East Coast. Once it gets warm there, it stays warm for the entire summer. Of course, it often gets hot, too hot most of the time. But at least you can count on it and plan for it. There are no unexpected snow storms popping up in the middle of spring. Then again, in North Carolina there are often no snow storms even in the winter. Too bad the snow came after most of the resorts have already closed for the season.

If it snowed like this in the spring in North Carolina, everyone would rush home thinking it was the end of the world. Entire cities would come to a grinding halt as people panicked and wondered how to

away would shut down with the expectation the storm would dump as much as 1/8 of an inch of snow somewhere nearby. Mobs would flood the supermarkets to stock up on food to last out the storm. And those from the north and west would laugh at the site of all those suntanned bodies fearing the snow.

The people would go to extremes because snow in the spring would be an extreme occurrence back east. But out here, the weather is just another hurdle in the daily businesses of being a Westerner. Well, I still have my doubts about the "big winter of last year" and other such claims. Sure, I've seen the pictures and heard countless stories of how it snowed for three days straight. But you know what they say: seeing is believing. Next winter, I'm sure many people will remember these words and I will eat them with a little sugar and spice. But for now, let's just get this rainy, snowy weather out of the way and get into spring full-force.

Just Stuff

by Jan

Three or four weeks ago when Devin's babysitter told me that one of the other kids had just come down with chicken pox, so Devin had been exposed, I wasn't worried. Actually, I thought it would be a good thing to get that childhood illness out of the way. Two weeks after Devin had been exposed and no spots, I figured he wouldn't get them.

I was wrong. Last Friday, almost three weeks since he had been exposed, I noticed a funny little red spot-like blister in his eyebrow (it must be a rule that everybody who has chicken pox has

this Thursday for a wedding. A sorority sister from college is getting married Saturday and we were planning to take Devin and make a little vacation out of the trip.

Now it's up to Mother Nature. Will Devin or won't Devin be contagious by Thursday? Supposedly, a person can go seven to 21 days after being exposed before the spots appear (I know for a fact it is no longer 14 as once was the theory. I have a spotted son as proof!) and they're most contagious just before they break out with the spots. This is great, since you don't know they've got it, until the spots show up. And they're contagious until

the last little red spot breaks and scabs over. And who knows how long that could be. Some of Devin's spots have scabbed over. Some haven't. More will be by tomorrow, but who knows, he may have more new unscabbed by then, too.

I guess we'll just wait and see. I don't mind taking a spotted leopard looking lad on the plane, but I don't think they'd appreciate us exposing the friendly skies to the chicken pox. And so we'll just wait and see what Thursday morning brings. In the meantime, I'll keep dishing out the Benadryl and calamine lotion.